

Editor's Corner

The Bruffey Family



BORN-POCAHONTASIAN, now living in Virginia, Rae Dowdy has submitted material on Bruffey

Family history for your present reading and for the editor's possible gleaning for the encyclopedia. The material comes as clippings from the pen and hand-set type of the late and great Cal Price and time of printing is 1933.

THE BRUFFEYS

The Bruffeys held their family reunion on Bruffeys Creek on August 26, 1933. A goodly number of the relationship was present and the occasion was greatly enjoyed by all.

John Bruffey was born in the north of Ireland in 1752. He married Nellie MacDonald, of Scotland, and they moved to America prior to the Revolution. In this war he served as a soldier under General Anthony Wayne. He was killed in the year 1807 by being thrown from a horse. The horse scared at a deer at the stone trough on the lands of M. J. McNeel. He was buried in the McNeel graveyard. His grave is marked by a stone lettered by his son John.

John and Nellie MacDonald Bruffey were the parents of three sons, Mark, John and Patrick.

Mark married a Miss Lewis and lived in Monroe county. They had a son, Rev. George; his sons were Fletcher and Samuel; the latter was the father of Mrs. George B. Minter, of Warren, Ohio, who was a missionary in China for a number of years; returning home to care for her sister's children.

John Jr. married Elizabeth Hill and settled on Bruffeys Creek. They were the parents of three sons and seven daughters — Murry, Bradford and John.

Murry married Elizabeth Craig of Nicholas county. They were the parents of three sons and three daughters. William, Robert, Richard. Elizabeth became the wife of Wesley Hill; Nancy, wife of Henry Boggs, and Margaret, wife of Haggi Denison. Deputy Sheriff R. M. Bruffey and A. W. Hill are grandsons of Murry Bruffey.

Bradford married Mary Watts of Greenbrier county. They had three sons and four daughters. Newton, late of Renick; Frank, deceased; Squire T. A. Bruffey, of Bruffeys Creek; Elizabeth Whiting; Serene Grimes, Bird Shisler, Ida Sarver.

John Bruffey III, married Margaret Hill and went west.

The daughters of John 2nd were Eliza Moore, of Edray; George P. Moore was her son. Harriet, wife of Wesley Cruikshanks, of Nicholas. Levina, wife of Clayborne Blair; went west. Mrs. Jennie Lynch of Neola, Mrs. Annie Dotson and Culbison, of the west are her children. Julia became the wife of a McClure; the late Mathew was her only son. Margaret became the wife of Morgan Anderson. They had three children. Elizabeth became the wife of Samuel McCarty, and moved to Vermont; C. J. McCarty was her son. Tho Anderson became Mrs. Shannon Clutter; Eric Clutter is their son. Dickson Anderson married Sarah McCoy. Mrs. P. C. Curry is their daughter.

Nancy Bruffey became the wife of Levi Hooker, clock-maker, and Martha Bruffey became the wife of James Ewing. Both families went to Nicholas county.

Patrick Bruffey was born May 2, 1785, and died February 3, 1853. His wife was Annie Slaven, daughter of John Slaven, head of Greenbrier River. He was a skilled workman in wood, iron and stone. He was a miller, too, and owned the mill near Greenbank. His family consisted of six daughters and two sons. Polly Mathews was born January 29, 1813, and died November 1, 1849. She became the wife of John H. Ruckman.

February 7, 1833. Her children were Caroline, wife of William J. Cuckley, of Stamping Creek; Sidney, who married Almira Campbell; their son Charles teaches Indians in Oklahoma. Nancy Catherine born April 6, 1814, died October 1, 1888; wife of Ben Ervine, and was the mother of eleven children. One son, James was a Confederate soldier and was killed in the presence of his mother.

James, born January 28, 1816, married Margaret Ann Hartman and went to Lewis county.

Elizabeth Slaven Bruffey, born March 24, 1818, became the wife of Addison Ervine and went west.

Priscilla Bruffey became the wife of Lorenson Pugh and went to Webster county.

Caroline Margaret Bruffey, born September 18, 1822, died

August 14, 1853; became the wife of James Watts Ruckman October 14, 1852. Her child was William Wallace Ruckman, who lived on Stamping Creek, where his children, D. E. and Maggie, now reside.

Sarah Ann Bruffey, born

November 7, 1824, died November 6, 1895, became the wife of James G. Hamilton, October 9, 1851. A daughter, Hester, became the wife of Robert Brown, County Surveyor. R. W. Brown is their son.

William Slaven Bruffey, born December 2, 1826, married Mary J. Hamilton, went to Missouri. He died March 14, 1873. M. R.

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John Bruffey was born in the north of Ireland in 1762. He married Nellie MacDonald, of Scotland, an ancestral kinsman of Ramsay MacDonald, prime minister of the British Empire. John and Nellie MacDonald Bruffey moved to America prior to the Revolution. In this war he served as a soldier under General Anthony Wayne. He was killed in the year of 1807 by being thrown from a horse. The horse scared at a deer at the stone through on the lands of M.J. McNeel. He was buried in the McNeel graveyard. His grave is marked by a stone lettered by his son, John.

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The Bruffeys were of an inventive turn of mind. One of the Pocahontas family worked for many years on the unsolved problem of "perpetual motion." The inventor developed a machine so finely poised that a grain of wheat would start a large wheel turning, but it could not be controlled and the longer it ran the greater became the speed, until it would finally tear itself to pieces. Bruffey's last effort was to start the wheel and watch it fling itself into fragments as it dashed off into space.

There are no millionaires among the Bruffeys, but there might have been, for it was a Bruffey who invented the hillside plow, the instrument that has probably done more to draw wealth from the soil than any other one farm implement. An unscrupulous lawyer of Washington stole the patent and thus the Bruffeys lived quietly on, content to hew

would draw water. They are pastoral people and agricultural people and have never aspired to positions of honor and trust in the affairs of state.

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Note: From the tombstone in the McNeel graveyard, Hillsboro, West Virginia:

JOHN BRUFFEY

Native of Ireland and Revolutionist under General Wayne, U.S.A.

Died in 1807 - aged 55 which would make his birth date 1752. This tombstone was made by his son John Bruffey and inscribed as that was his business. His wife was Nellie McDonald, English, who came before the Revolution. Children: Patrick was as far as I can find out a carpenter and contractor, Mark, was a preacher and went to Monroe Co., W.Va. John lived in Pocahontas County, buried in the Hill Cemetery, Lobelia, West Virginia

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This is the latest picture of Mrs. Mollie Bruffy, who died Monday. She is pictured here with a doll that was given her when she was a child at Calvin.

Mollie Bruffy, 61, Dies

Funeral services were to have been conducted at 2:30 today for Mrs. Mollie Bruffy, 61, wife of George Bruffy of La Frank, who died Monday morning, October 29, in the Sacred Heart Hospital.

Rev. J. E. Brown, pastor of La Frank's New Prospect Baptist Church, was to officiate, and burial was to follow in the Little Union Cemetery at Calvin with the White and Coleman Funeral Home in charge.

Mrs. Bruffy, a member of the New Prospect Baptist Church and of the Rebecca Lodge, was born at Calvin June 7, 1895, the daughter of the late Hamilton and Amanda Bredon.

Survivors besides her husband include one daughter, Mrs. Beulah Tonry of Cincinnati, Ohio; one brother, Ervin Bredon, also of Cincinnati; one half-brother, Justus Bredon of Morgantown; one half-sister, Mrs. Ruth Curry of Calvin.

Miscellaneous Bruffey became the wife of Larcheson Hugh and went to Webster County.

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Bruffey Reunion

On August 25 the Bruffey family of West Virginia held a largely attended and worth reunion at Webster Springs. The following comments on the occasion are from the Webster Springs Republican.

With the arrival of the chairman of the program committee in the afternoon an hour of reminiscence was introduced by Tom Bruffey, in the course of which a brief history of the family in America was given. From this historical account we gathered a few interesting facts and likewise gathered many more from private conversations with some of the Pocahontas visitors.

Miss Maggie Ruckman seems to be the recognized historian of this family. It was revealed that a certain John Bruffey of Scotch-Irish descent came from Ireland prior to the Revolution and settled in the neighborhood of Hillsboro, about fifteen miles from Marlinton on the Greenbrier River. He brought an attractive bride from among the Shamrocks of his native heath when he came to America, whose name was Nellie McDonald, and an ancestral kinsman of Ramsay McDonald, prime minister of the British Empire. The Bruffeys have studiously avoided public statement concerning the relationship with such royal personages, but in West Virginia it is no discredit to know that Tom Bruffey, who opened this reminiscent hour is a cousin of England's great prime minister.

We learned that Bruffeys were an inventive turn of mind. One of the Pocahontas family worked for many years on the unsolved problem of "perpetual motion". The inventor developed a machine so finely ~~made~~ poised that a grain of wheat would start a large wheel turning, but it could not be controlled and the longer it ran the greater became the speed until it would finally tear itself to pieces. Bruffey's last effort was to start the wheel and watch it fling itself into fragments as it dashed off into space.

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